

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3748

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, AS, US

SUBJECT: CCD: AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP

REF: A) STATE 160992

B) GENEVA 4687

C) GENEVA 4640

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED ISSUE OF AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN MEMBERSHIP IN CCD ON JULY 26 WITH DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ROGERS, FIRST ASST SECRETARY, DEFENSE DIVISION). ROGERS SAID THAT WHOLE ISSUE HAD COME UP AS RESULT OF INTEREST IN DISARAMENT FIELD. AUSTRALIAN DFA HAD FOCUSSED ON CCD AS MEANS TO THIS END AND INSTRUCTED AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN PRINCIPAL CCD COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE SUBJECT: THESE INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE SUBJECT HAVE PRODUCED APPROACHES TO U.S. DESCRIBED IN REFTELS.

2. ROGERS COMMENTED THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT MISUNDERSTANDING, EITHER BECAUSE DFA INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS MISSIONS WERE NOT CLEAR ENOUGH OR BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT PRESENTED OR UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY. HE SHOWED
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EMOBOFF TELEGRAM OF INSTRUCTIONS ON WHICH AUSTRALIAN

MISSIONS HAVE OPERATED. TELEGRAM CLEARLY UNDERLINES EXPLORATORY NATURE OF INQUIRY, WITH EMPHASIS ON POINT THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD LIKE TO JOIN CCD, WITHOUT PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL STANCE. DFA AWARE OF PRESENT PLANS FOR EXPANSION, INVOLVING ADMISSION OF BOTH GERMANIES AND THREE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, PRESUMABLY FROM ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA. ROGERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT DFA SEES PROBLEM IN TRYING TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AS "NON-ALIGNED" UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. BASIC TELEGRAM OF INSTRUCTION TO AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS DID NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT AUSTRALIA AS "NON-ALIGNED" BUT ON CONTRARY DEFINED THIS AS OBSTACLE IN ARRANGING FOR AUSTRALIAN ADMISSION IN CONTECT OF EXPANSION PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED.

3. WITHOUT DWELLING FURTHER ON HOW MISUNDERSTANDING AROSE, ROGERS AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT PRUPOSE IS TO FIND WAY IN WHICH AUSTRALIA CAN JOIN CCD WHEN IT IS ENXPANDED.

4. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY IS ONLY PARTICALLY INFORMED ON PROBLEMS OF EXPANSION OF CCD, REFS B&C OUTLINE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP. IF SOME OTHER WAY COULD BE FOUND FOR AUSTRALIA TO JOIN CCD, U.S. MIGHT FIND AUSTRALIA WOULD BE USEFUL MEMBER OF BODY. IN ANY CASE, BRINGING AUSTRALIA DIRECTLY INTO DISARMAMENT EFFORT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE EDUCATIONAL EXERCISE THAT COULD HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON PRIMIN WHITLAM. PRIMIN HAS TENDED TO TAKE THEORETICAL RATHER THAN PRACTICAL STANCE REGARDING WORLD SECURITY ISSUES IN GENERAL.
HARROP

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